

OPEN SPACE COUNCIL
September 4, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Legislative Hall
Senate Hearing Room, Second Floor
Dover, Delaware

ATTENDANCE

Council Members:

John R. Schroeder, Chairperson
Rep. Gerald Brady
Sen. Bruce Ennis
Paul Boswell, Esq
Lorraine Fleming
Dorothy Leventry
David Humes

Advisory To:

Shawn Garvin, DNREC, Secretary – present

Staff:

Lisa Borin-Ogden, DNREC, Deputy Secretary
Matthew Ritter, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
Elena Stewart, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
Robert Ehemann, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
Austin Short, DDA
Michael Valenti, DDA, Delaware Forest Service
Kyle Hoyd, DDA, Delaware Forest Service
Patrick Emory, DNREC, Community Services
Kerri Yandrich, DNREC, Fish and Wildlife
Tim Byan, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Holmes, DNREC, Parks & Recreation

Visitors:

Steve Cooper, President, Nanticoke River Water Conservancy
Marlene Mervine, Executive Director, Nanticoke River Water Conservancy
Marta Nammack
Jennifer Ayuft (name may be incorrect – hard to read writing)
Jessica Hammond, Chesapeake Conservancy
Jim White, DE Native Species Commission; DE Nature Society
Charles Salkin, Kent County Conservancy

I. Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements

John Schroeder, Chairperson, called the September 4, 2019 Open Space Council (OSC) meeting to order.

II. Minutes of June Meeting

The minutes of the June 5, 2019 were unanimously approved.

III. Financial Report

Elena Stewart presented the financial report:

Open Space Program - Approved Projects 9/4/2019

Date Committed	Current Projects	Amount	Agency
12/6/2017	Selby	\$425,000	F&W
4/6/2018	Misphillion Harbor	\$300,000	F&W
7/20/2018	Kaiser	\$300,000	HCA
9/14/2018	Geffon	\$475,000	Parks
	Hudson	\$250,000	Parks
12/7/2018	Maroney	\$0	Parks
3/6/2019	Borcherdt	\$2,730,302	Parks
6/5/2019	Fraser	\$57,800	Parks
	Borcherdt (Phase 2)	\$1,930,000	Parks
	Layton	\$640,000	Parks
	Isaacs	\$40,000	DFS
	Selby	\$350,000	F&W
	Timmons	\$390,000	F&W
	Caffini	\$220,000	F&W
	Alfree	\$0	F&W
	Schilling	\$450,000	F&W
	Total	\$8,558,102	

Available Funds 8/26/19 \$5,291,936

Current Commitments \$8,558,102

Current Balance -\$3,266,166

To be added 12/15/19 \$9,000,000.00

\$5,733,834.13

IV. Old Business

A. Completed projects

1. Collins Burrows Property – DNREC, Fish & Wildlife

- Eagles Nest Wildlife Area
\$1, 100,000; 168 acres
- 2. Oval Lawn Farms Property – DNREC, Fish & Wildlife
Eagles Nest Wildlife Area
\$900,000; 127 acres
- 3. Jones Property- DNREC, Fish & Wildlife
Little Creek Wildlife Area
\$7,000; .9 acres
- 4. Glatfelter property – DDA, Delaware Forest Service
Taber State Forest
\$110,000; 29 acres

V. New Business

A. Staff Updates

Elena gave an update on the Delaware Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Richie Jones left his position as State Director to return to private law practice and Allison Vogt, the Deputy Executive Director of MD/DC, is serving as the Interim State Director at least through the end of the calendar year. Allison has asked Elena to tell partners that they should reach out to her with any questions or just to connect and that TNC does not have any land protection projects on the horizon for this year.

B. Council Open Discussion None

C. Public Comments

John welcomed Jim White, the chairman of the Native Species Commission, to the meeting. He also acknowledged members of the Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy, Chesapeake Conservancy and Kent County Conservancy.

Charles Salkin of the Kent County Conservancy introduced himself and spoke in support of Delaware State Parks' work to expand the Fork Branch Nature Preserve. Elena asked if he could stay for Executive Session as he was attending to support an acquisition project. John said he could.

VI. Executive Session

A. Discussion of Site Acquisitions

VII. Open Session

A. Council Project Recommendations

- 1. Prestwick Associates Inc. Property, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
Fork Branch Nature Preserve
Paul Boswell made the motion to acquire the 41 +/- acres for \$900,000 with \$90,000 to come back to the Division as an endowment. Sen. Ennis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 2. Handloff/ Weinberg Trusts Property, DNREC, Parks & Recreation
White Clay Creek State Park
Paul made the motion to accept the donation from the Weinberg Trust in New Castle County. Rep. Brady seconded the motion. Sen. Ennis voted against the motion. The motion passed.
- 3. SPI Pharma Property, DNREC, Parks & Recreation

Cape Henlopen State Park

Paul Boswell made the motion to accept the donation from SPI Pharma. Dorothy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Aycoth Property, DNREC, Parks & Recreation

Killens Pond State Park

Paul made the motion to purchase the 1 acre Aycoth Property in Killens Pond State Park for \$285,000. Rep. Brady seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Troyer Property, DNREC, Fish & Wildlife

Norman G. Wildlife Area

Paul made the motion to purchase the Troyer Property which is 116.37 acres for \$440,000. Rep. Brady seconded the motion. David Humes voted against the motion. The motion passed.

6. Dube Property, DNREC, Fish & Wildlife

Eagles Nest Wildlife Area

Paul made the motion to purchase the Dube Property which is 21.93 acres for \$250,000. Sen. Ennis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. ABC Woodlands, DDA, Delaware Forest Service

Redden State Forest

Paul made the motion to purchase the ABC Woodlands Property for \$1,580,000 for about 482 acres of land subject to the verification of acreage. Rep. Brady seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Open Space Council is scheduled for December 4, 2019 in Legislative Hall, Second Floor, Senate Hearing Room, Dover, DE 19901, starting at 9:00 a.m.

John thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.